POLITICS

Sen. Hatch won't seek re-election

Utah's Orrin Hatch, the longest-serving Senate Republican, has cleared the way for Mitt Romney's return to politics. **A7**

Castro's PAC to help elect Dems. **A3**

Aaron P. Bernstein / Bloomberg

SPORTS

Victory No. 1,176 moves Popovich to 5th most coaching wins in NBA history

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Edward A. Ornelas / Express-News

San Antonio Express-News

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'Internal tourniquet' proving to be medical miracle

By Todd Ackerman
STAFF WRITER

HOUSTON — Thrown from his motorcycle after his tires hit a patch of oil, Michael Cassidy landed on a fire hydrant with such force that doctors described it as splitting him up the middle.

Emergency responders worked heroically to save Cassidy, but by the time Life Flight arrived at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center, he was fighting for his life, vital signs fading, both brain and heart starving for more blood. Transfusions couldn't keep up with the loss.

"He was actively bleeding to death," said Dr. Michelle McNutt, chief of trauma at Memorial Hermann's Red Duke Trauma Institute.

But McNutt and her team had a new device developed and manufactured by a Boerne company that gave hope for Cassidy — a catheter that opens a balloon in the body's main artery, temporarily stopping the hemorrhaging that threatens a patient's life. Doctors describe it as an "internal tourniquet" and call it a "game changer" in the field of trauma.

The idea was inspired by the decades-old use of such balloon-tipped catheters in cardio-

Medical continues on A12

Online

Video: Check out a demonstration of how the 'internal tourniquet' works at ExpressNews.com

Yi-Chin Lee / Houston Chronicle

Michael Cassidy, 26, holds son Azrael, 2 months. An internal tourniquet helped save Cassidy's life when he was involved in a motorcycle wreck.

DEEP FREEZE

Expect to shiver till the weekend

Jerry Lara / San Antonio Express-News

COLD IN SAN ANTONIO: Priscilla Miramontes, 34, gets clothing and blankets for daughters Keyla, 9 (left), and Kimberly, 11. Gonzaba Medical Group and the Salvation Army teamed to aid the needy.

By Peggy O'Hare and Jacob Beltran
STAFF WRITERS

Ready for a break from freezing temperatures? Relief will arrive this weekend.

San Antonio is in the midst of what will be a six-day cold snap, according to National Weather Service forecasts. Low temperatures will continue to dip below freezing in the Alamo City on Thursday and Friday mornings. Residents should keep their pets and plants inside and protect any water pipes at risk of bursting.

No precipitation is expected.

Temperatures should return to more typical January levels this weekend, with highs projected to reach 58 degrees on Saturday and the mid-60s on Sunday, according to the weather

Weather continues on A2

Jim Weber / Associated Press

FROZEN ELSEWHERE: Sherlin Galicia (from left) Alexander Galicia and Heidi Galicia play on an iced-over pond at Overton Park in Memphis, Tenn. See national weather story, A9.

Symphony may face changes in season

Performances could be eliminated or revised

By Steve Bennett
STAFF WRITER

A shortened concert season — or a modified one — may be on the horizon for the chronically underfunded San Antonio Symphony, whose board plans to meet today to discuss a new contract with orchestra musicians.

"There are several options, one of them being bankruptcy, but we hope they don't go down that road," County Judge Nelson Wolff said. "Or they can try to compromise, and one of the options would be to shorten the season. It's my understanding they are trying to work out an abbreviated conclusion to the season. I'm hoping that's what they'll try to do."

Bexar County's visitors tax on hotel rooms and car rentals provided $100 million of the $203 million to build the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, which is the symphony's home, and the county is a symphony

Symphony continues on A12

Online

Interactive Timeline: See a full timeline of the San Antonio Symphony's financial woes at ExpressNews.com

Inside

Botánica: Even before its debut, music festival reinvents itself. **Metro, A3**

Ex-FourWinds boss wants to be tried separately from Uresti, Cain

By Patrick Danner
STAFF WRITER

Former FourWinds Logistics CEO Stan Bates says co-defendants state Sen. Carlos Uresti and Gary Cain intend to lay the blame on him for allegedly defrauding investors in the now-defunct oil field services company.

The three are scheduled to stand trial later this month, but Bates is asking to be tried separately from Uresti and Cain because they intend to use him as a "foil and a fall person" in the case.

"Uresti and Cain are going to show the jury that they were victims of Bates' fraud, just like the investors" with FourWinds, Kurt G. May, an assistant federal public defender representing Bates, said in a Thursday court filing.

"A separate trial is necessary to ensure that Bates receives the fair trial that he is entitled to,"

FourWinds continues on A12

Bob Owen / San Antonio Express-News

Former FourWinds Logistics CEO Stan Bates (right), is seen with his now-former lawyer, Karl A. Basile. Bates says Carlos Uresti and Gary Cain intend to blame him.

WEATHER

HIGH **52** LOW **25** Mostly sunny
Full report, C8

TRICENTENNIAL

Mural tour is part of Dreamweek. **Page A11**

Subscriber bonus: Kiwifruit brightens winter dishes
ONLINE E-EDITION, PAGE EE1

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